



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/656,504 | 09/07/2000 | Peter Krause | 004860.P2449 | 2231 |

7590 10/28/2003

Andrew C Chen
Blakely Sokoloff Taylor & Zafman LLP
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026

EXAMINER

YANCHUS III, PAUL B

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

2185

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/656,504

Applicant(s)

KRAUSE ET AL.

Examiner

Paul B Yanchus

Art Unit

2185

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-15 and 17-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-15 and 17-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This non-final office action is in response to amendments filed on 9/15/03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 11, 17, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 11, 17, 18 and 20 are all dependent on cancelled claims. For examination purposes the examiner assumes that claim 11 is meant to be dependent on claim 9 and claims 17, 18 and 20 are meant to be dependent on claim 15.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 11-13, 15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kim, US Patent no. 5,938,770.

Regarding claims 1, 9, Kim teaches a power supply circuit for a digital processing system comprising:

a first stage [Power Supply in Figure 5] having a first output [V in Figure 5] coupled to a first component of the system [Video Signal Processor in Figure 5] and a second output which is different from the first output [line between Power Switch and Power Supply in Figure 5];

a second stage [Power Switch in Figure 5] associated with a second component [Hub Ports in Figure 5] of the system, said second stage coupled to said first stage [line between Power Switch and Power Supply in Figure 5]; and

wherein said first stage drives said second stage using the second output [line between Power Switch and Power Supply in Figure 5];

Regarding claim 2, Kim teaches that the first stage [Power Supply in figure 5] is separated from the second stage [Power Switch in Figure 5].

Regarding claims 5, 6 and 11-13, Kim teaches that the first component is a video signal processor [Figure 5] and the second component is a USB hub port [Figure 5]. USB hub ports power USB devices, which comprise microprocessors.

Regarding claim 7, Kim teaches that the first stage [Power Supply in Figure 5] provides power for the first component [Video Signal Processor in Figure 5] and the second stage [Power Switch] provides power for the second component [Hub Ports in Figure 5].

Regarding claims 15 and 17-19, Kim teaches an apparatus for supplying power to a digital processing system. Therefore, Kim also teaches a computer system comprising the apparatus.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2185

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 14, and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent no. 5,938,770.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Kim does not explicitly show a differentially driven two-wire bus connecting the first and second stages. However, a differentially driven two-wire bus arrangement is well known in the art and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a differentially driven two-wire bus to connect the first and second stages.

Regarding claims 8, 14 and 20, Kim does not explicitly teach that the first stage comprises a flyback converter and the second stage comprises a forward converter. However, flyback converters and forward converters are well known in the art and it would have been obvious to employ them in the system.

Regarding claims 21 and 22, Kim does not explicitly teach that the first output provides DC voltage and the second output provides AC voltage. However AC to DC and DC to AC converters are well known in the art and it would have been obvious to employ them in the system in order to supply the appropriate voltages to components.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9, 11-15 and 17-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Art Unit: 2185

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul B Yanchus whose telephone number is (703) 305-8022. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-5:30 (Every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Lee can be reached on (703) 305-9717. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Paul Yanchus
October 20, 2003

Dennis M. Butler
Dennis M. Butler
Primary Examiner